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Original

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MAR 11 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Docket # 02-277
50 Written Presentations
To Chairman and Commissioners

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

EX-277

From: Stephen Gawronski
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/18/03 11:06AM
Subject: broadcast deregulation

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From: Stephen Gawronski
2826 164th Place
Hammond, IN 46323-1118

2-18-2003

MAR 11 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Mr. Powell:

I'm deeply disturbed by the news I've been hearing about the FCC's plans to further deregulate broadcast media in the U.S. I presume you folks don't actually listen to any radio or watch any tv, because if you did you'd be aware of the tremendous degradation of quality and variety of radio programming that has taken place since radio was deregulated, as well as of the already-dismaying homogeneity and repetitiveness of most television programming (not to mention the creepy sameness of most network newscasts, which often feature not just the same stories, but the same stories at the same moment). Now you apparently intend to destroy what little diversity is left on television, and deliver the public airwaves whole up to the control of one single corporate "big brother" who will tell us all what to think about everything on every television station at once. Disgusting. I think this will substantially harm the public interest, and that for you to allow it is a shameful dereliction of your duties. Rather than de-regulating broadcast media further, you should vigorously re-regulate radio and television. Why should any single person or corporate entity be permitted to own more than one single radio or television station?

--

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<http://kvmail.com/?sr=signup>

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62-277

From: Marilyn G. W.
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/18/03 12:55PM
Subject: Don't weaken limitations on ownership

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioner,

It is incumbent that the current limitations on ownership of media remain. If there is any change, it should be toward DECREASING THE NUMBER OF MEDIA OUTLETS one individual or corporation may own. Our access to information is at stake. We need the small, independent local outlets!

Sincerely,
Marilyn G. Wolters
16404 Melody Lane
Guerneville, CA 95446

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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From: Peter and Marianne Kinney
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/18/03 8:38PM
Subject: Don't allow monopoly of media channels

MAR 11 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioner Powell:

Numerous reports agree that the Federal Communications is planning to loosen longstanding rules governing control of the media that bring news and views to the American public. This will inevitably lead to monopoly, by a few large corporate giants, of TV stations, newspapers, and broadcast networks.

I urge you, Commissioner Powell, to halt immediately any implementation of these these FCC plans that threaten public access to diverse views and information.

Sincerely,

Peter and Marianne Kinney

02-277

From: Ronald Whitney
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/22/03 1:10AM
Subject: DIVERSITY OF RADIO AIRWAVES

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DIVERSITY OF THE RADIO AIRWAVES

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Do not deregulate the radio airwaves. In fact, return to the stricter standards that existed for both radio and TV before 1996, even in the 1960s. Freedom of information is severely limited when very few mega conglomerates own most of the newsrooms and channels of information TV, radio, newspapers, and magazines. The Internet is not sufficient to counter the restrictions imposed by limited diversity. Not every one has access to the Internet only those who do can use it conveniently. !; (And you cannot turn it on in the car as we do radio) Please ensure our diversity of information for the sake of democracy.

--- Ronald Whitney
--- rwhit7211@earthlink.net
--- EarthLink: It's your Internet

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02-277

From: Kelley S. Hestir
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/22/03 2:33PM
Subject: Deregulating the Media

MAR 11 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Mr. Powell

About 5 years ago, I stopped relying on news from network and cable T.V., radio and reading of major newspapers. I found the editorial so marginal, uninformed, unintelligible and full of self promotion, I was wasting my time.

Now I know why that happened . . . deregulation. Last time it happened without my knowing Not this time.

I am strongly opposed to any deregulation of the media that would give more freedom to companies to franchise, monopolize and control the airwaves and the internet, and therefore control information.

The airwaves and the internet belong to the Public, not corporations and not to those who hold office or are appointed to committees. **As** an employee of the People it is your imperative to uphold our rights.

--- Kelley S. Hestir
--- kelleys@mindspring.com
--- EarthLink: The #1 provider of the Real Internet.

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02-27 7

From: Jackie Golden
To: Mike Powell, Pskona@aol.com
Date: 2/24/03 1:06AM
Subject: Deregulation

MAR 11 2003
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Please cast my vote, (I am a registered voter in California) NO to deregulation!
Respectfully submitted by Jackie Golden

From: Andru Eron
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/24/03 6:53PM
Subject: Diversity

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62-277

MAR 11 2003

~~Federal Communications Commission~~
Office of the Secretary

Mr. Powell,

I disagree with your stated intention of deregulating the airwaves. I do not think that the public's interest will be served by further concentrating media ownership. I also do not believe that there is real diversity presented now. For instance, I have never heard a station ask a pacifist for their opinion on current events. I rarely hear environmental activists on television, or for that matter, stories about the environment are rarely presented. I would like to see the FCC take determined action to create strong, fair, and diverse media options for Americans.

Thank You,
Andru Eron

From: Michael Newman
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/25/03 11:52PM
Subject: Deregulation

No, deregulation, thank you, Mr. Powell.

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02-217

MAR 11 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From: Christine Evans
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: 2/26/03 5:46AM
Subject: Keep media free and competitive

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02-277

MAR 11 2003

**Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary**

Dear Commissioner:

One of the basic elements which help to keep the American media at least partially free and independent is the set of FCC regulations restricting consolidation and monopolies.

In the 2002 Biennial Review, the FCC appears to be planning to roll back many of these protective regulations: the Newspaper/Broadcast Cross-Ownership Rule, the National Broadcast Ownership Cap, the Local Radio Ownership Rule, the Duopoly Rule and the Dual Network Rule.

Relaxation or abandonment of the preceding rules will result in the purchase of local and independent newspapers and radio and television stations by large media giants. The cost to the American People and Democracy will be far too high if local news, reportorial freedom and access to a true variety of legitimate views are further compromised.

Commissioner, I urge you to make sure the FCC does not relax or drop these vital regulatory rules

Sincerely

Christine B. Evans
1550 Gravenstein Highway
Sebastopol, CA 95472

From: Vivian Tenney
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/26/03 11:00AM
Subject: Deregulation

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MAR 11 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I am very, very, concerned about the state of broadcast media in the US. I now have to rely on the internet to find out what is really happening in this world. And, every time anything is deregulated, the result is, in the end, *two* or three large, powerful companies who control everything in a virtual monopoly. What happens, then, to a democracy which depends on informed citizens?

Vivian Tenney
626 Morningside Dr.
Norman, Ok 73071

From: Tammy Ballard
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/26/03 1:10PM
Subject: deregulation of corporate media consolidation

RECEIVED

MAR 13 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

To Michael Powell, FCC Chair
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

mpowell@fcc.gov <mailto:mpowell@fcc.gov>

Phone: 1-808-225-5322
Fax: 1-202-418-0232

Media diversity should be a top priority for the FCC.

Media concentration cripples democracy

Please preserve and refrain from weakening the rule prohibiting cross ownership of newspapers and television stations in the same market.

Thank You

Tammy Ballard

There were exactly 704 stories in the campaign about this flap of Gore inventing the Internet. There were only 13 stories about Bush failing to show up for his National Guard duty for a year. There were well over 1,000 stories -- Nexus stopped at 1,000 -- about Gore and the Buddhist temple. Only 12 about Bush being accused of insider trading at Harken Energy. There were 347 about Al Gore wearing earth tones, but only 10 about the fact that Dick Cheney did business with Iran and Iraq and Libya.

Do you Yahoo!?
Yahoo! Tax Center - forms, calculators, tips, and more

From: Jeanne Clerc
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/27/03 3:28PM
Subject: Deregulation

Chairman Powell:

There must not be a loosening of regulations for media ownership! This is the United States. All points of view whether it is in print, cable or radio should be allowed.

I shudder to think of Rupert Murdoch owning/controlling any other media outlets!

Respectfully,
Jeanne Clerc

From: Rich Barber
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/27/03 3:36PM
Subject: Deregulation

Dear Mr. Powell:

My original intent was to write you and urge you not to deregulate the telecommunications industry any further. I feared that with further deregulation that we would have even fewer owners of media outlets, thus we would be denied access to a rich variety of opinion, entertainment and news (which is obviously dangerous to a Democracy). But as I began writing, I had an epiphany. I realized that if radio and TV suck this badly now, then they would probably suck 10 times as much with more deregulation. Just think how boring it will be if one corporation owns everything. We'll get the same morning zoo DJ's and the same empty talking heads on every station. It will be the suckiest thing in the kingdom of suck.

Soon everyone will realize how badly things suck and they will flock to the Internet, thus leaving the moguls with fewer viewers. listeners and advertising dollars. Once the profit is gone, the moguls will be forced to cut their losses and sell the stations back to the people who could make it interesting again, for cheap.

I realize that it will get worse before it gets better, but I can wait. After all, I've got the Internet, which is hardly regulated at all. And it's interesting. Meanwhile, I'll be saving my nickles in hopes of owning my own TV station one day.

Sincerely

Richard C. Barber
Louisville, KY

MSN 8 helps eliminate e-mail viruses. Get 2 months FREE'.
<http://join.msn.com/?page=features/virus>

From: John Wielgus
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/27/03 4:30PM
Subject: DO not change rules restricting media ownership

Mr. Powell,

I read comments you made today at the Richmond hearing regarding changing FCC rules restricting media outlet ownership. I find your perspective on this issue very disturbing and as a US citizen wish to make my voice heard. The media ownership restriction is fully justified simply with the possibility that a media market may be owned in entirety by a single business entity. This would be wrong. Just the possibility of a media ownership monopoly existing is sufficient evidence to support continuing the ownership restriction. Even if such a monopoly is local, it is wrong, and should not be allowed to exist.

FCC rules restricting media ownership should not be changed.

In particular, the broadcast spectrum is owned by the public, and merely lent to the broadcasters. As such, we, the public, can and should dictate how the spectrum can be utilized. I feel strongly that any person, organization or company which broadcasts via the "airwaves" (radio, TV or any yet to be developed media) MUST be restricted in the number of outlets they can own in any one market. This is our right as owners of the broadcast spectrum.

Lastly, to restrict public hearing to a single day in one site is inadequate. This is a nation of nearly 300 million people, it is citizen ownership of the broadcast spectrum which is at stake here. Listen to these citizens. To cut off debate and comment without sufficient time is an egregious example of undemocratic behavior.

I implore you to not change the ownership restriction rules.

John Wielgus
20 Schoolhouse Rd.
Amherst, MA 01002
(413) 545-3076
e-mail: jwielgus@fcrao1.astro.umass.edu

From: Don Wallace
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/28/03 12:17AM
Subject: Broadcast Ownership

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am writing to you to register my shock, alarm, and displeasure regarding the contemplated changes to the Media Ownership rules. Ever since ~~the~~ deregulation of the telecommunications industry there has been such conglomeration in that industry that the media is quickly approaches becoming a single medium. I do not claim to be an academician, and so perhaps my comments will ~~be~~ dismissed as founded upon 'intuition' -- but still, I cannot see how changing this rule will do anything but accelerate this trend. Please, for the love of god and all the works of man, do not change this rule.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Wallace

From: Heather Ash
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/28/03 1:14AM
Subject: Do not loosen media ownership restrictions

Mr. Powell,

I would respectfully request that you do not allow the media ownership rules to be loosened or de-regulated. Even with existing rules, we have a level of vertical integration that is frightening. Only a few corporations own a majority of the broadcast and print media, and as such their viewpoints have become mainstream, all but shutting out the alternative voice. If only a few control the outlets for opinions, entertainment and news, then it is not representative of the people.

While you say such concerns are irrelevant in today's world, that the industry as it was in 1975 is different from today's in that it no longer requires such regulation, I would argue that we need regulation now more than ever. We live in a global society, where everything and everyone are connected. To have only the few speaking for the world is a dangerous situation -- as seen in other countries where the media is restricted. To allow the American media to be restricted, even by the seemingly innocuous situation of corporations owning and controlling a multitude of media, sets us up for losing our freedom and the fundamentals of our democracy... the freedom for contrasting viewpoints to be heard and available to all.

From: Peter Adams
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/28/03 10:22AM
Subject: Broadcast Ownership

There hasn't been much in the news about changing the rules on broadcast ownership. I wonder why. Guess who would benefit... the people who already own the news.

As a member of the public, I am aghast at the possibility of removing all rules on the ownership of media. That is **so** dangerous for our democracy. You are public servants. Please serve us and the Constitution not the big-spending lobbyists. We do not need to create a monopoly on information.

Arlene Williams
PO Box 1329
Sparks, NV 89432

From: Laura Hershey
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/28/03 11:59AM
Subject: Broadcast Ownership

Dear Mr. Powell,

Please do not allow a few corporations to own and control multiple media outlets in each market. Freedom of expression depends largely on the existence of a healthy, vibrant and independent media. Allowing corporate concentration of the media will lead to decreased diversity of coverage and programming, and will exclude many minority voices from the broadcast media. I strongly oppose the proposed rules changes concerning broadcast ownership. Thank you.

Laura Hershey
1466 South Lincoln Street
Denver, Colorado 80210

LauraHershey@cripcommentary.com

From: bilroy@corncast.net
To: Mike Powell
Date: 2/28/03 10:34PM
Subject: Broadcast Ownership

Dear Sir

As a former broadcaster (1955-1987) I would like to express my displeasure in the current rules that allow unlimited ownership of radio stations in a single market. This practice:

Eliminates true competition, thus lowering the standard of broadcasting

Gives dictatorial power over what music a listener can hear. (ask Willie Nelson George Strait or Alan Jackson)

Elimates competitive pricing for commercials

Large conglomerate broadcast companies often try to buy listeners with misleading contests that let the listeners feel they have a chance to win thousands of dollars from the station they are listening to when in fact it is one contest for hundreds of stations and the chance of winning is probably less than the chance of winning the powerball lottery. This is misleading. In fact, I have never heard of anyone actually winning any of those big contests.

When "competing" stations are owned by the same company, there is no real competition. It is a "take it or leave it" proposition, with listeners being the big loser.

Also, the change in broadcast rules for the amount of commercial content has resulted in large clusters of commercials which results in poor return for the advertising dollar for advertisers, and very unhappy listeners. I would never advertise on radio today because my message would be lost in the middle of a cluster of commercials and have no value at all. The old rule of 18 minutes per hour was most generous, and was better for the advertisers and the listeners

I do, however, feel that the elimination of the "equal time" rule was a good move. I understand that there are those who, for political reasons, want to re-instate the "equal time" provision. What this would do is deter stations from allowing the broadcast of opinions and put a stanglehold on free speech in broadcasting.

The air-waves belong to the people. To allow a handful of companies to control all of broadcast radio is contrary to the public interest. To allow any political agenda to thwart the free expression of ideas through the so-called "equal time" rule would also be contrary to public interest and be, in fact, government control over free press and freedom of expression.

Sincerely,

Bill Breland

Charleston, SC

From: Kuvoc2@aol.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: 3/3/03 10:45AM
Subject: FCC regs on media ownership

I think your stand on relaxing the rules for media ownership is correct. I can see the quality of programming has degraded in the last few years and the independence of political shows has been compromised. I hope that your opinion will stand.

Ron Lacefield

From: neczyporuk@mindspring.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: 3/3/03 4:08PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Dear FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps.

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in children's development.

The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Kim Neczyporuk
2307 Hardwood Drive
Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278

cc.
Representative David Price
Senator John Edwards
Senator Elizabeth Dole

From: Brenda Senturia
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 3/3/03 7:55PM
Subject: March Hearings

Dear Commissioner Adelstein.

Please do not support further deregulation and consolidation of the media. I value what few independent news sources we have. Today so much of what we hear and see is 'canned and watered down for public consumption. I value in-depth coverage of local issues and dissenting viewpoints on contemporary happenings. I think it would be a terrible mistake to allow large media conglomerates to own even larger shares of the various markets and to be able to control various types of media in the same community. It is important in a democracy to have independent sources of information and I fear that the contemplated changes will have a detrimental effect on our society.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,
Brenda Senturia
Seattle, Washington

--- Brenda Senturia
--- Bbsenturia@earthlink.net
--- EarthLink: The #1 Provider of the Real Internet.

From: Kathleen Abernathy
To: KAUINN
Date: 3/4/03 3:47PM
Subject: Fwd: Protect Children's Television!

From: mginsbur@ix.netcom.com
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: 3/4/03 3:47PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

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Sincerely,

Monica Ginsburg
1900 W. Roscoe Street
Chicago, Illinois 60657

cc:
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Peter Fitzgerald
Representative Rahm Emanuel

From: mginsbur@ix.netcom.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: 3/4/03 3:48PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps

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1900 W Roscoe Street
Chicago, Illinois 60657

cc
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Peter Fitzgerald
Representative Rahm Emanuel

From: mginsbur@ix.netcom.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 3/4/03 3:48PM
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FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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Sincerely

Monica Ginsburg
1900 W Roscoe Street
Chicago, Illinois 60657

cc
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Peter Fitzgerald
Representative Rahrn Emanuel

From: Leon Kresl
To: Michael Copps
Date: 3/4/03 5:37PM
Subject: Restrictions on Media Ownership

WE FEEL THERE SHOULD BE MORE RESTRICTIONS ON HUGE MEDIA OWNERSHIP RATHER THAN LESS

We feel that less regulation will be a huge windfall for a few giant media corporations

If the windfall was only money it would not be so bad. The worst part would be that it would allow a few people even more control of the American news media than they already have. If a few people can control the news media they can work together to control our minds.

Leon and Virginia Kresl
7618 Grover St
Omaha NE 68124

From: Kathy Hill
To: Michael Copps, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 3/4/03 11:20PM
Subject: Democracy over corporate efficiencies (PNW hearing comment)

Dear Commissioners Michael J. Copps, Jonathan S. Adelstein and the FCC.

Thank you for holding hearings in Seattle about proposed changes in FCC rules governing media consolidation

As a lifelong resident of the Pacific Northwest and a citizen who depends on the news media to provide investigative reporting on issues that affect my voting, I urge you to fashion rules that enhance democracy and not corporate efficiencies. that will oppose media consolidation and further limit concentration of media ownership. We cannot trust corporations to do what is best for our democracy. A diverse and independent media is needed to keep our country and economy strong.

I worked for Ma Bell through its 1984 breakup: Phone company efficiencies were not the primary concern in that case, nor should business efficiencies be a primary concern with the media.

I live in Spokane, a city where owners of the only local daily newspaper (and a TV/radio station) are in hot water over a parking garage business deal they made with the city that is affecting local taxes and the citys ability to fund services. Without the independent media outlets we have here and a few very brave independent reporters, my neighbors and I would have gotten little if any unbiased information about the deal. The daily newspaper already has bought the local business weekly. In Spokane, advertisers have been manipulated by media sales persons pushing exclusivity agreements. I go to foreign media sources to find out what the ~~US~~ is doing when I should be able to trust our national media to report with full disclosure

And when it comes to entertainment value, the Muzak approach offered by media conglomerates undermines innovation and variety. Local college stations that played alternative music have shut down or cant expand their tiny range in Spokane. Thank goodness we have public radio, but government funding too frequently is under political attack.

I urge you and the other commissioners to protect media diversity, investigative reporting (not reporting that depends on handouts that compromise media integrity). and democracy (not *laissez faire* market economics) Government needs to actively watchdog the media; do not allow the fox to guard the hen house.

Thank you for requesting community comment

Sincerely

Kathy Hill

Spokane WA

MSN 8 with e-mail virus protection service: 2 months FREE*

CC: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, KM KJMWEB

From: m-s.amick@juno.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: 3/5/03 10:00AM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Dear FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps,

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules

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The FCC should consider how further relaxation *of* media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely.

Susan Amick
912 20th Ave S
Moorhead, Minnesota 56560

cc
Representative Collin Peterson
Senator Mark Dayton
Senator Norm Coleman

From: m-s.amick@juno.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 3/5/03 10:00AM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

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912 20th Ave S
Moorhead. Minnesota 56560

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Senator Mark Dayton
Senator Norm Coleman

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To: KAUINN
Date: 3/5/03 10:00AM
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Sincerely,

Susan Amick
912 20th Ave S
Moorhead. Minnesota 56560

cc.
Representative Collin Peterson
Senator Mark Dayton
Senator Norm Coleman

From: mandtharrington@msn.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 3/5/03 11:38AM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

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Sincerely

Terri Harrington
408 22nd St. East
West Fargo, North Dakota 58078

cc:
Senator Kent Conrad
Representative Earl Pomeroy
Senator Byron Dorgan

From: Kathleen Abernathy
To: KAQUINN
Date: 3/5/03 11:38AM
Subject: Fwd: Protect Children's Television!

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To: Kathleen Abernathy
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Sincerely,

Terri Harrington
408 22nd St. East
West Fargo. North Dakota 58078

cc
Senator Kent Conrad
Representative Earl Pomeroy
Senator Byron Dorgan

From: mandtharrington@msn.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: 3/5/03 11:38AM
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Sincerely,

Terri Harrington
408 22nd St. East
West Fargo. North Dakota 58078

cc
Senator Kent Conrad
Representative Earl Pomeroy
Senator Byron Dorgan

From: Mrs. Dixie Gainer
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 3/5/03 12:31 PM
Subject: Comments to the Cornmissioner

Mrs Dixie Gainer (twofirs@oregoncoast.com) writes:

Dear Commissioner Adelstein. Regarding the hearings the FCC will be holding on furthur deregulating the communications media -which by the way, the major newspapers and networks are not mentioning,(I wonder why?) don't do it.In a local newspaper it was reported that the White House asked CNN not to report the many peace marches that were taking place all over the world! You know how important it is for this country to have diverse opinions and also access to unbiased news reporting. The Iraqi government controls all the news media in Iraq. Do we admire them?? Don't sell our country out. Help keep America the great country it once was. Help fight against greed - I think that is what is destroying this country Thankyou

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
Remote host: 208.14.150.124
Remote IP address. 208.14.150.124

From: Paul Fellows
To: Michael Copps
Date: 3/5/03 3:19PM
Subject: Daylighting the proposed change of media ownership rules...

Dear Mr. Copps-

I'm writing to thank you for your effort to get the proposed change of media ownership rules debated in the light of day. Obviously, there is every effort being made to keep the American people in the dark about this policy change, which is another blow to our democracy.

I'm old enough to remember when the Reagan administration took away the Fairness in Broadcasting rules. I can track the demise of public democratic debate, the ruin of the foundation piece of compromise and the polarization of America to that change.

The powerful media conglomerates have certainly made their mark. One must spend valuable time looking for trustworthy information and news these days. The further consolidation of media, especially into companies mainly interested in entertaining America (not informing America) is a frightening prospect.

The fact that this important debate is happening behind semi-closed doors is a disgusting, but typical, tactic of the current administration in Washington. We informed Americans look to the few brave souls such as you, to shine some light into the hidden debates.

I implore you to do everything to get the issue in front of the people. Your brave efforts have given me some hope in an otherwise dark time. If there's anything I can do to promote the issue, besides write Congress (a given), please let me know.

Below is attached an article from The Nation which I thought you might like to know about.

Respectfully,

Paul Fellows
4220 Dayton Ave. No.
Seattle WA 98103
pfellows@cypressmail.net
206.632.2311

From THE NATION web site
02/27/2003 @ 8:37pm
<http://www.thenation.com/thebeaVindex.mhtml?bid=8&pid=445>

Media Meltdown Obscures FCC Debate

As if there was need for more evidence that major media is neglecting to cover Federal Communications Commission deliberations on whether to fundamentally alter media ownership rules, a new survey shows that 72 percent of Americans know "nothing at all" about the debate in which FCC Commissioner Michael Copps says "fundamental values and democratic virtues are at stake."

Only four percent of 1,254 adults surveyed by the Project For Excellence in Journalism in collaboration with the Pew Research Center for the People and The Press said they had heard "a lot" about the FCC's deliberations regarding rule changes that could redefine the shape and scope of American media.

Echoing concerns voiced by consumer, public interest and labor groups, as well as a growing number of members of Congress, Copps has argued that the FCC should schedule more official hearings on the proposed rule changes. The commissioner also says that major media outlets -- especially the nation's television networks -- have a responsibility to cover the debate over whether to allow greater consolidation

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of media ownership at the national level and the removal of barriers to control by individual corporations of most of the television, radio and newspaper communications in particular communities.

"I'm frankly concerned about consolidation in the media, and particularly concerned that we are on the verge of dramatically altering our nation's media landscape without the kind of debate and analysis that these issues clearly merit," Copps said as the commission's sole scheduled official hearing opened Thursday in Richmond, Virginia.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell, who has long been the commission's most ardent advocate for rule changes favored by media corporation lobbyists, has resisted efforts to open up the debate. Thursday's hearing in Richmond offered some explanation for why Powell has sought to constrain the dialogue.

Despite rough winter weather, hundreds of critics of the proposed relaxation of controls on consolidation packed the hall where the commissioners heard testimony. While representatives of television networks and newspaper chains argued for the rule changes, the clear signal from the crowd was expressed by David Croteau, a sociology professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, who told commissioners: "Less regulation will be a windfall for a few giant media corporations. It is likely to be a huge mistake for the rest of **us**."

Consolidation has already changed the face of media for the worse, argued Rain Burroughs, a Richmond daycare center worker. Burroughs told the commission that "the best programs don't get to air because of the obsession to maximize profits. Today, we are bombarded with sensationalist, mindless, violent shows."

During the public comment period, speaker after speaker rose to express opposition to rules changes that would lead to more consolidation and commercialization. As the day came to a close, speakers suggested to the commissioners that the public had spoken -- loudly -- against the proposed changes.

"What we are seeing is that, as the public becomes more aware that these issues are on the table before the FCC, people are chomping at the bit to say, 'No, don't do this,'" said Michael Bracy, director of government relations for the Future of Music Coalition, which recently produced a report that exposed the damage done to diversity and content by the consolidation of radio ownership made possible by rule changes in the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The new poll from the Project For Excellence in Journalism confirms Bracy's assessment. Among Americans who said they thought that allowing companies to own more TV, radio and newspaper outlets would make a difference, the survey found that by a 3-1 margin they believe the impact will be a negative one. The proportion of those surveyed who said that the impact of the changes would be negative rose significantly among those Americans who said they knew "a little" or "a lot" about the current debate.

Copps argued in his statement at the opening of Thursday's hearing that the dialogue needs to be dramatically expanded before the FCC makes any decisions on the proposed rules changes. "While the participation of business representatives is essential, so is the input of consumers, labor, educational and religious, minority organizations, and Americans who have never heard of the FCC," Copps said. "We can pretend that these folks read the Federal Register and can afford lawyers to fully participate in our inside-the-beltway decision making. But we'd be kidding ourselves. This decision is too important to make in a business-as-usual way. We need America's buy-in..."

Despite the good dialogue in Richmond, however, that buy-in has yet to occur. Scant major media coverage has created a situation where, as the Project For Excellence in Journalism survey illustrates, most Americans still do not know that the future of media -- and the democracy and culture *it* influences -- is up for grabs.

From: Paul Fellows
To: Mike Powell
Date: 3/5/03 3:49PM
Subject: Please open up the Commission deliberations on media ownershiprules

Dear Mr. Powell-

I'm writing to urge you to open up the currently "limited access" Federal Communications Commission deliberations on media ownership rules to a Nation wide debate, with meetings available in each region of the country and a lengthy comment period available, so you can really hear from Americans about what they think about media consolidation.

I'm already concerned about consolidation. The powerful media conglomerates have certainly made their mark. One must spend much valuable time looking for trustworthy information and news these days. The further consolidation of media, especially into companies mainly interested in entertaining America (not informing America) is a frightening prospect.

The proposed rule changes will further prohibit access to a wide array of information, which is necessary for maintaining the health of this republic. By allowing the distribution of information to be limited to only a few powerful companies, each dominating it's own distribution technology and mainly interested in the money made in entertainment programming, you will be doing great damage to democracy.

I'm old enough to remember when the Reagan administration took away the Fairness in Broadcasting rules. One can track the demise of fair public debate, the ruin of the foundation piece of compromise and the polarization of America to that change.

I implore you to open up this issue to nation wide public debate beginning today! Call a news conference and let people know about this important national matter.

Sincerely,

Paul Fellows
4220 Dayton Avenue No.
Seattle WA 98103
pfellows@cypressmail.net
206.632.2311

From: Wendy moffett
To: Mike Powell
Date: 3/5/03 5:09PM
Subject: Preserve Diversity and Openness in the Media and on the Internet

Wendy moffett
950 20th st ne apt 9b
hickory NC 28601-4342

March 5, 2003

Federal Communications Commission Chair Michael K. Powell
445 12th St SW
Rm 8-A204
Washington, DC 20554

Chair Powell:

The Federal Communications Commission is responsible for ensuring that the media serve the public interest. I am concerned that the FCC is acting on behalf of big business rather than the people.

It is clear that the FCC has stepped up its efforts to de-regulate the media and telecommunications industries. You must act now to halt further media consolidation and to preserve the openness and diversity of the Internet.

As a supporter of women's rights, I am concerned that the current media merger free-for-all threatens to rob us all of the independent voices, views and ideas that nourish a pluralistic, democratic society. Ownership consolidation is squeezing out what little diversity remains in the marketplace.

The media are more than just a business; they bring information to people that affects their lives. We cannot have a healthy democracy, and women cannot pursue equal rights, if we are uninformed on the issues. The media have a responsibility to serve the public interest and ensure that all voices are heard. It is your job to promote this.

Please remember U.S. consumers and citizens when you review any further regulations. The media giants already control far too much of our precious information resources.

Sincerely,

Wendy

From: Wendy moffett
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Date: 3/5/03 5:11 PM
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Sincerely

Wendy

From: bodners
To: Michael Copps
Date: 3/5/03 6:10PM
Subject: Biennial Regulatory Review of Broadcast Ownership Rules

Dear Commissioner Copps:

I am very alarmed by the prospect that the FCC will consider relaxing the regulations that, among other things, prohibit a newspaper from owning radio or tv stations in the same city as the newspaper. Recent changes in FCC regulations have already resulted in a lack of diversity on radio as more and more stations are bought up by large media conglomerates.

Freedom of the press will be an empty promise if just a few major corporations control the overwhelming majority of media outlets. I am not interested in "efficiency" or bottom-line returns when it comes to getting my news. I am interested in getting a broad spectrum of views and facts from as many independent sources as possible.

The airwaves are not the property of business; they belong to the public. We no longer (if ever we did) live in a time when "what's good for General Motors is good for America". We did not defeat the Communist empire in order to emulate its attitude about the news. Control of the news, whether by government or a private industry monopoly, spells the end of freedom.

I strongly urge you to reject any further relaxation of the rules governing media outlet ownership

Sheila Bodner
Arlington, VA
SBodner

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SBodner

From: Kathleen Abernathy
To: KAQUINN
Date: 3/5/03 3:03PM
Subject: Fwd: Protect Children's Television!

From: willjones7@attbi.com
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: 3/5/03 9:03PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in children's development.

The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Will Jones
16465 109th Ave. SE
Renton, Washington 98055

cc:
Senator Patty Murray
Representative Adam Smith
Senator Maria Cantwell

From: willjones7@attbi.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 3/5/03 9:03PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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Representative Adam Smith
Senator Maria Cantwell

From: willjones7@attbi.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: 3/5/03 9:04PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

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Senator Patty Murray
Representative Adam Smith
Senator Maria Cantwell

From: glong@coldwellbanker.com
To: Mike Powell
Date: 3/6/03 1:34AM
Subject: Media Concentration

Mr. Powell: mpowell@fcc.gov

General Electric's ownership of NBC is a symptom of a major problem -- that it is not in the interest of a defense contractor to give the public information if it does not help them **sell** war products.

Please, Mr. Powell, we need less centralization of ownership of the media -- particularly TV. What in hell happened to "The Public Interest"?

It is a scandal that the greatest educational tool in the history of mankind -- TV -- is used to sell under-arm deodorants so that rich people can become richer, while our culture goes in the toilet.

You can do something about it? Do you have the backbone, or even the intelligence to do such a thing?

Gerry Long
Newport Beach, Ca

From: Denzil Walters
To: Michael Copps
Date: 3/6/03 2:45AM
Subject: Media ownership

TO: Michael J. Copps
FROM: Denzil Walters
Kingston, WA 98346

Seattle was better off when it had three daily newspapers. Now it has ~~two~~ newspapers edited under a joint-operation agreement.

Radio listeners in Seattle were better served when radio stations were obligated to present more than one side in dealing with controversial issues

The concentration of media ownership has narrowed the discussion of political and social ideas.

The FCC proposal to permit cross-ownership of newspapers and broadcast stations in the same market further narrows expression of viewpoints.

I trust that you will vote against the proposal that will lead to expansion of concentration of media ownership.

CC: Denzil Walters

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To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 3/6/03 3:10PM
Subject: media concentration

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FROM: Denzil Walters
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